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# Chemicals in foods!



PHOTO: STAR

The government shouldn't let this criminal activity of poisoning foods go on unabated and with impunity. It is the most horrible crime against humanity. It is incumbent on the government to act swiftly and save the nation. Legal safeguards must be in place to protect the citizens from the deadly fruits. Steps should be taken by deploying special forces, installing devices, to check the items sold and bring transparency so that consumers cannot be cheated and will have full and clear information about the items they purchase. Stern and exemplary punishments should be meted out to the culprits. The government should not take this lightly for the consequences are well known, and

especially for the younger generation it can have horrifying implications. It should be stopped now and at any cost as the effect is far-reaching and irreversible. It is a scary scenario. Not that we didn't know about it but with every passing day it is sinking in deeper and deeper. It is also taking on serious proportions. It is getting more and more alarming as days go by.

The insecurity among us is even more because the authorities are not doing enough and not taking concrete steps to stem this evil practice. A sense of hopelessness prevails.

**Ali Hamid Khan**  
Sector 14, Uttara  
Dhaka

Here is the best and classical example of "the kettle calling the pot black"! An amused observer  
Dhaka

## Godfathers

In our country, the culture of political patronage by godfathers is a great hindrance to the progress of balanced politics. When criminals are caught red handed from the spot of crime, the godfathers get into trouble. They face a catch-22 like situation. So, they try to organise some kind of lobbying to free the criminals.

Their slogan is usually like 'Omuk bhai-er Nisshortho Mukthi Chai'. Here the water turns murkier.  
**Ahsan Uddin Tohel**  
Department of English  
Shah Jalal University of  
Science and Technology  
Sylhet

## Abusing Internet

Though we don't have wider access to internet like other developed nations but it is alarming that a large portion of internet users of our country are addicted to various unproductive internet based activities. Excessive use of Facebook, a so called social network, is one of them. The major victim of this curse is our young generation who don't have enough control over their activities. They are really vulnerable to the bad effects of this social network. According to socio-psychologists, the bad effects of Facebook are loss of concentration, lack of sleep, fatigue, loss of appetite, withdrawal syndromes, behavioural personality disorder etc. Every technology has its own blessings and curse depending on how we use it for our betterment. The more frustrating news is that it is spreading even across the rural areas where people use mobile internet.

If not used properly, Facebook is not less harmful than pornography as it creates obsession, psycho-somatic illness and other sorts of mental inconsistency as reported by the developed countries' specialists in the respective fields. Moreover, it is also reported that various criminal networks are carrying on their activities through this site.

**Md. Anisuzzaman Sarker**  
MBA, Finance  
Chittagong University

## Public statements

Our so-called leaders should realize that the blatant lies never turn into truth even if those are repeated over and over again. One should remember that we are not living in Germany of 1940s but in Bangladesh of 2010. Much water flowed down the river Danube and the Rhine as also the river Padma and Jamuna since then. Due to rapid tech-

nological development, the world has become literally a big village, if not a small one. Therefore, the deceit never goes unnoticed, whether it's done or uttered in a remote corner of Bangladesh or at the splashy Time Square of New York. One may also notice that given a fair national election, people of Bangladesh never gave a wrong judgment as indicated by our historical records.

Hence, I would request our leaders to start their public meetings by seeking forgiveness for their past misdeeds instead of mud-slinging. Our people are extra-ordinarily generous and they may even forgive if they are convinced that they would not be cheated any more.

**Hafejul Alam**  
A former civil servant  
Mohammedpur  
Dhaka

## Hot and humid

The hottest month of Bangladesh is on, all over the country. It has become impossible to bear the scorching heat of the sun. Load shedding makes the problem worse and unbearable. To get at least some relief from this unbearable heat we need to be cautious regarding some important matters. Here are some tips for everybody.

Firstly, we should drink pure water in plenty at least 8 glasses per day and should not drink contaminated outside water to get protected from diarrhoea like diseases and we should carry water bottles with us. Secondly, we must shun any kind of oily food including fast food which are bad for health, particularly during the hot season. Actually we need to keep in mind that we eat to keep our body healthy and active but if we eat foods that are harmful to our body it will be nothing but an irresponsible act. Thirdly, we should take liquid foods. Fourthly, we should wash our hands properly before taking anything. We should rinse our face & hands after coming from outside to get some relief from tiredness.

Moreover, we should wear light and comfortable clothes which suit the season, we can also wear sunglasses and cap to avoid the excessive sunlight.  
**Victim of intolerable heat**  
One-mail

## Historical facts

Apropos to your front-page report on May 7 'First Bangalee to become British lawmaker.' Allow me to register my point. As a Bengali, although across the border in West Bengal, while I am proud of Rushanara Ali's election to the House of Commons, let me set a few historical facts right.

As far back as 1919, Sir Satyendra Prasanno Sinha was raised to the House of Lords as Baron Sinha of Raipur. The gates of his crum-

# Our responsibility

Wouldn't it be frightening if the ozone layer was destroyed and the Earth vanished from the solar system, if the rivers were unclean and it wouldn't provide us with water and life-sustaining harvest, if the air didn't give us enough clean oxygen to talk, laugh, and most importantly, survive? Believe it or not, our actions may improve these consequences. We have forgotten that the Earth is the most unique planet in the entire universe. Its beauty can't be described in words. But are we showing appreciation of it?

Nowadays, destroying the world we live in has become second nature to us. We fail to comprehend the consequences of the negative impacts that we are putting on the environment.

Bangladesh is in horrible state and unfortunately only we are to blame, with uncontrolled use of finite resources and the huge amount of carbon emission and pollution in our country. But it's not too late, we still have time. It is within our capability to do something about the environment because we too are part of it. The betterment of the world is in our hands. All we have to do is while brushing our teeth we should keep the tap closed, after cooking we should switch off the burner, while leaving a room; we should switch off the fans and lights. These small changes in our behaviour can make a big difference.

**Tanha Kashfia Kate**  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka



WAHID ADNAN / DRIKNEWS

## Altruism

How far we follow the teachings of our dearest Nabi and Rasul Muhammad (Pbuh) is open to question. The greatest Rasul (Pbuh) taught his followers to be caring about needs and happiness of others.

The Rasul (Pbuh) also taught his followers to be altruistic.

**Habibur Rashid Ismail**  
Chittagong

## Black and white money

We are really sorry to question the motive of a few journalist cum talk show hosts when they show total apathy to go into the fact finding mission on a national issue like black money. The current topic of black and white money is handled in such a way in the media that a grey area is established, doing irreparable damage to the nation and its democratic march. There is a proverb that "When money is lost, something is lost, but when character is lost everything is lost." I would simply ask these journalist friends to kindly not to undermine the wisdom of the people and push the nation to darkness. Therefore, the current issue is nothing but a case of total

moral corruption if measured by any standard of the civilized and democratic countries we talk about so frequently in the media. The present effort of the SG of a party and the tax lawyer is nothing but to encourage turning the truth into falsehood. Hopefully, the media will not join it.

I wish a citizen of our country will use the freedom of information act to find out exactly under what act and tax code the incumbent political leader deposited the undeclared money along with others the same year. If they can win over the issue due to the ignorance and innocence of the people and the media, kindly forget about good governance, and let the corruption be the order of the day.  
**Quadir**  
California, USA

## Powerless!

A heat wave is sweeping across the country. On other hand, power crisis has become a part & parcel of day to day life. The children and elderly people are the worst sufferers.

When will the situation improve?  
**Rahad Ahsan**  
One-mail

## Congratulations!!

Rushanara Ali has been elected to the House of Commons in England. This is great news for all Bangladeshis all over the world. She has another identity. She is an Oxford graduate. Moreover, she is the 5th Asian to get such a position. Being a woman of 35 years, she has made history. Her victory would definitely give a new dimension to our nation.

At the same time, this victory will help to boost the confidence of the Bangladeshi women staying abroad. From the core of my heart, I wish her all the best. I also hope, this victory will help Rushanara Ali to prove the potentiality of Bangladeshi women to the whole world.

**Pradip Das**  
Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP

## Robbers warning others!

A report from Barisal was published in the front page of a local English daily on 13 May. It depicted the height of double standards and deceit. It is very much like a comedy act; where an experienced 'robber' is now warning bureaucrats that they will face jail for contracts of power plants without tender!

The perspectives are totally different. If the BNP arouses people to topple the government the 'RED SHIRT' way, it will only lead to violence. Each elected government finished their full terms. The BNP has to wait.  
**Nasirullah Mridha**

If the BNP resorts to illegal means to oust a democratic government, the government should do everything to stop the uprising before it starts. Anarchy should not triumph over democracy.  
**N. Ali**

We support and elect these types of parties and expect development! We citizens should be blamed for our choice.  
**Shafiqul Islam**

Will the senior leaders ever make comments reflecting their seniority & wisdom?  
**Aneira**

There we go.... hopefully BNP revolutionaries would remember the colour 'red' means something different in the political lexicon....go ahead with red revolution then!  
**Mukul Ahmed**

Bravo, our politicians! They are not observing how much the Thai economy is suffering due to this. Foreign investors, companies are worried about Thailand due to this political volatility. We do not follow good examples!  
**MK**

Congratulations to the BNP and its chairperson for making one of the dumbest comments ever! Any political party should work towards protecting the citizens and promoting peace and unity. Instigating the country towards violence, death and unrest is not the way to go!  
**Shahreen**

We hope Madam Zia will give hope to her countrymen, not frustration. She may have different views over government decisions but should not declare such programmes. Let people decide.  
**Hoque MJ**

How smart and constructive. The Thai protesters were being funded by the ousted premier Thaksin, and a similar protest in Bangladesh will be funded by those who were in power in the past.  
**Moin**

How can any responsible politician even think of starting a violent movement to remove the party in power? This is not Thailand.  
**Mir**

If high level politicians think that opposition politics means only road blockade and hartal, they should study politics of the 21st century and on the scientific and mathematical analysis that are also involved.  
**Anonymous**

The BNP was in power and people saw their activities. People were not satisfied and so they voted for the Awami League. If the BNP disturbs and disrupts the peaceful situation of Bangladesh in the name of agitation, it will pay a high price.  
**Kazi Firoz**

Are those leaders, supporting 'red-shirt' programmes in Bangladesh, freak?  
**SG**

Don't start another ugly chapter in our politics. Dear Leaders, don't act emotionally. If the govt is not doing well, people will change it.  
**Kamal**

didn't get the Oscar just because it showed what terrible destruction the marines do to innocent people. It is the best movie no doubt and everybody should watch it. You can't help but give credit to the director, producer and writer, James Cameron for showing the world the true picture of the devastation they cause not only to people but also to the environment in the name of peace. They are destroying the only planet that we have, by exploding bombs in hundreds and thousands.

**Dr. Sabrina**  
One-mail

## Our mission

It refers to the editorial of The Daily Star that one wonders if the leaders of our country make statements at public meetings only to pander to the fears and prejudices of the gullible audience! Can we not expect more respect for facts and responsibility from our national leaders when they make public statements? For half-truths are worse than lies.

Those who profess to favour freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power

concedes nothing without a demand; it never has and it never will. Anyway, these facts are things of the past while the peoples' predicament is very much an issue of the present and one may feel tempted to say the public has thus far given the past precedence over the past. The public and the press can bring our political and governmental institutions back to life, make them responsive and accountable, and keep them honest. No one else can. It's time for greatness -- not greed. It's a time for idealism -- not ideology. It is time not just for compassionate words, but compassionate action.

Now, we all want to know how our money is spent.

There is more to Bangladeshi politics than fat cats and their political friends. There are serious-minded liberals who fight the good fight on many issues, ecologically oriented politicians who remain true to their cause, and honest people of every political stripe who are not beholden to any wealthy people. But there are not enough of them, and they are often worn down by the constant pressure from lobbyists, lawyers and conventional politicians. We do not want to blame anybody in particular. What we want to see is that our mission, to end the blame game and corruption, is accomplished.  
**Gopal Sengupta**  
Canada

## ONLINE VOICES

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

### Replicate 'red-shirt' movement in Dhaka

Some BNP stalwarts urge Khaleda (May 18, 2010)

That's interesting... only problem is the red shirts are poor people from the villages where the AL has big support and the BNP should like the yellow shirts, manipulative, urban elites with ties to the military and Pakistan.  
**SKhan**

This is sort of a joke for a party which couldn't even walk three kilometres to finish their so called march against the election results in Bhola.

Other than hired men, who will even spend three hours under the BNP banner? And will these people risk their lives for two months? I don't think so.  
**Neena**

Look East Policy, again!  
**Farid Ahmed**

It's ridiculous that both the parties can only think of coming to power (rather than thinking about people's welfare) and ousting the other party to grab power, if need be. It's also ridiculous that after less than two years in opposition, the BNP is desperate to come back to power. While the Awami League hasn't done anything spectacular, they at least haven't yet started the practice of making the party chief's son(s) the centre of corruption.  
**Shafkat**

Hoping is good, but look at your past before hoping! Only the lazy supporters believe you, not the people! If you have the base, establish it in the ground, not in talks!  
**Prodip K. Roy**

# Is it freedom?



WAHID ADNAN / DRIKNEWS

It is time to discuss about the visible or invisible powers that control us from near or distance. But am I too independent to expose them? I think I am not. We are not independent truly. We are still controlled by the developed world. And it is not an unknown or unusual matter for a developing country like ours. We have to obey them because we get financial help from them. So, it is our duty to be dependent. But why are we doing this?

Yes, it is possible through self-reliance. We must be conscious of our own identity. We are the citizens of an independent country and this notion should be elevated.

**Salman Ahmed**  
Khulna